



Photos by MC1 Igo Wordu

Maj. George Nunez, MCSFCo. Commanding Officer, leads Marines and other runners as they kick off the first leg of the annual Cuban-American Friendship Day Run on Friday, Jan. 26. Inset: Other runners carried the flags of both nations to the finish point at Phillips Park.

GTMO honors Cuban community

Story by MC2 (AW) Honey Nixon, Public Affairs Office

The Cuban-American Friendship Day Celebration's theme, "Two Hearts, One Spirit in Friendship," was initiated once again for the local Cuban community and GTMO residents to enjoy on Jan. 26, in the Windjammer Ballroom.

The day's activities began with the Northeast Gate Run at 7 a.m., and ended with a celebratory luncheon honoring the unique relationship between NAVSTA GTMO, the Cuban commuters, special category residents, and the entire Cuban

community.

The "friendship celebration" that began 38 years ago has continued to flourish. Friday's participants enjoyed authentic Cuban cuisine, several speeches, and cultural dances performed by local elementary school children.

CAPT Leary welcomed guests and spoke of how area Cubans "brought their workers, their language and their friendship" to the base. "The celebration gives us the opportunity to reflect on our com-

mon heritage and to express our appreciation of our Cuban friends, and this diverse cultural charm that exists nowhere else in the world."

The celebration was also an opportunity for local W.T. Sampson students, like Celina Frye, to participate in performances that support and educate children on cultural diversity.

"It's really great to be a part of this, and it is a once in a lifetime chance," said

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